

House File 2016 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2016

BY P. THOMPSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to permissible gifts offered to, accepted, or
2 received by public officials, public employees, candidates,
3 and certain family members.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 68B.22, subsection 4, paragraph j, Code
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3 j. Nonmonetary items with a value of ~~three~~ twenty dollars or
4 less that are received from any one donor during one calendar
5 day week.

6 Sec. 2. Section 68B.22, subsection 8, Code 2024, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 8. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, an
9 organization or association which has as one of its purposes
10 the encouragement of the passage, defeat, introduction,
11 or modification of legislation shall not give and a member
12 of the general assembly shall not receive food, beverages,
13 registration, or scheduled entertainment with a per person
14 value in excess of ~~three~~ twenty dollars during one calendar
15 week.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 Current law generally prohibits public officials, public
20 employees, candidates, and members of such persons' immediate
21 family from receiving gifts from restricted donors. However,
22 certain limited exceptions are provided, and such persons may
23 receive as a gift, among other things, nonmonetary items with
24 a value of \$3 or less from any one restricted donor during one
25 calendar day. Similarly, unless otherwise provided in Code, an
26 organization or association which has as one of its purposes
27 the encouragement of the passage, defeat, introduction, or
28 modification of legislation is prohibited from giving, and a
29 member of the general assembly is prohibited from receiving
30 food, beverages, registration, or scheduled entertainment with
31 a per person value in excess of \$3.

32 This bill increases the value for permitted gifts described
33 in the bill from \$3 a day to \$20 a week.

34 A person who knowingly and intentionally violates a
35 provision of Code section 68B.22 is guilty of a serious

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1 misdemeanor punishable by confinement for no more than one
2 year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560. In
3 addition, a person subject to the rules of ethics of either
4 legislative chamber may be called before the applicable ethics
5 committee and could be censured, reprimanded, suspended,
6 dismissed, or expelled from the person's position or otherwise
7 sanctioned.